

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, UN, FAO

SUBJECT: DIFFICULTIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PAYING
THEIR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAO

REF: (A) STATE 187224 (B) NOTE OF FAO DIRECOTR-GENERAL TO
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, DATED JULY 12, REFERENCE AFPT-2702,
CONCERNING RECEIPTS AND BALANCES OF FAO MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. THE QUERY IN REFTEL AS TO DIFFICULTIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IN PAYING THEIR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS PERTAINS ONLY TO FAO
AMONG THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS, SINCE THE WORLD
FOOD COUNCIL IS A UN ORGAN, AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AND IN-
TERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE FINANCED
THROUGH VOLUNTARY PLEDGING.

2. THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
ARE EVIDENT IN THE ARREARS SHOWN IN THE FAO STATEMENT ON PAY-
MENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE 1977, AND
BALANCES OUTSTANDING, ATTACHED TO REF (B).

3. DISREGARDING INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ARRANGED BECAUSE OF
ABSENCE OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE ORGANIZATION FOR A TIME, AND
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TRIVIAL ARREARS, THE COUNTRIES IN ARREARS FOR 1976 AND EARLIER
ARE AS FOLLOWS: IN ARREARS SINCE 1971 AND EARLIER ARE CHAD,
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HAITI AND PARAGUAY. SINCE 1973, CEN-
TRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CONGO, DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, LAO,
MAURITANIA AND THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. SINCE 1975, AFGH-
ANISTAN, GRENADA AND SIERRA LEONE. ADDITIONAL COUNTIRES
STILL OWING ALL OR A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR 1976 ASSESS-

MENT ARE: ALBANIA, HONDURAS, IRAN, ISRAEL, MALI, NICARAGUA AND SENEGAL. ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES WHICH PAID THEIR 1976 ASSESSMENTS OR A MAJOR PART THEREOF ONLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1977 ARE: ALBANIA, BANGLADESH, BENIN, BRAZIL, BURMA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU, INDONESIA, KOREA, LEBANON, NIGERIA, PERU, POLAND, ROMANIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, VIET-NAM AND ZAIRE.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE COUNTRIES IN ARREARS IN PAYMENTS, OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES OFTEN COMPLAIN THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MAKE THEIR PAYMENTS, E.G. SRI LANKA. GROUP 77 AND SOME FAO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS SOMETIMES TRY TO MAKE THE POINT THAT IT IS HARDER FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PAY THEIR SMALLER ASSESSMENTS THAN FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PAY ITS LARGE ONE, AND EVEN WANT TO RE-OPEN THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES TO LIMIT ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO 25 PERCENT. (IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE NOT TALKED WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES HERE OR WITH THE FAO SECRETARIAT ABOUT THE WASHINGTON QUERY IN REFTEL.) THE ANSWER TO THIS GROUP 77 ARGUMENT, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE UNITED STATES' CONTRIBUTION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FIELD IS NOT LIMITED TO THE FAO ASSESSMENT BUT ALSO INCLUDES VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE U.S. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. MOREOVER, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES OF FAO AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FIELD.

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